

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Summary

Claims 1-9, 13, and 15 are cancelled. Claims 10, 14, 16, 17 and 20 are amended. New claims 26-31 are added.

Claims 10-12, 14, and 16-31 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indicated allowable subject matters of dependent claims 15 and 19-25.

Objection to the claim

Claim 17 is amended to correct a minor typographical error noted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

Claims 10-14, 16 and 18 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Forbes (US 5,879,996); and, claim 17 was rejected under §103(a) being unpatentable over Forbes in view of Besser et al. (US 6,867,428)

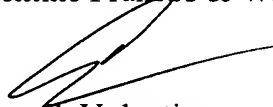
Without acquiescing to the Examiner reasons for rejections under §§102/103, the Applicants submit that claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 15 and claim 13, thus mooted the Examiners rejections. Claims 11, 12, 14, 16-25, which directly or indirectly depend on claim 10, are also allowable.

New independent claims 26 and 29 also contain subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 26-31 are also allowable.

Conclusion

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon Claims 10-12, 14, and 16-30 now present in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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